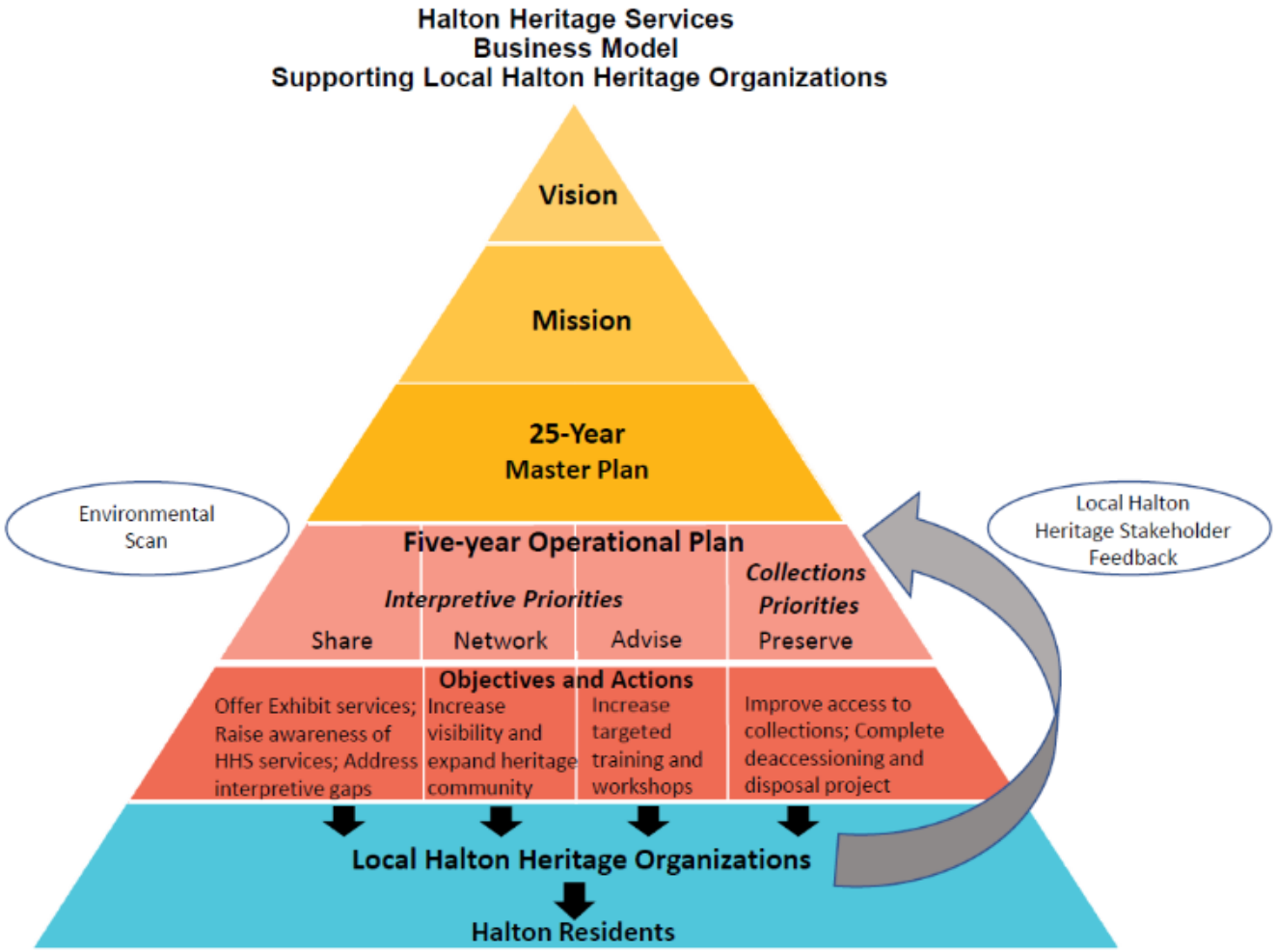
Nov. 24, 2021



Dec. 10, 2025

Halton Heritage Services – polish the gem, don't discard it!

Delegation to Halton Region Council by Mark Hopkins Dec. 10, 2025

Halton's Heritage Issues

- Indifference and lack of senior management leadership
- Historically under resourced
  - Regional or local municipalities
- Inadequate facilities
  - Both region and local municipalities
- Collection
  - Artefact issues: documentation, condition and fit
- Legal constraints
  - Donation / Deed of Gift agreements
- Ethical constraints
  - Donor trust in governments eroded
  - Heritage institutional best practices and standards overlooked
    - Huge dismantling costs implications
- No long-term heritage vision
- No Halton Region government archives
  - MFIPPA & Municipal Act compliance issues

Heritage consultants' Reports

- 2021 Haley Sharpe Design (Canada)
  - Guided by HHS staff
  - Consultations (despite Covid constraints)
  - 5-year operational plan & heritage vision
  - Primary focus on objects
  - No mention of Halton Regional government archival responsibilities

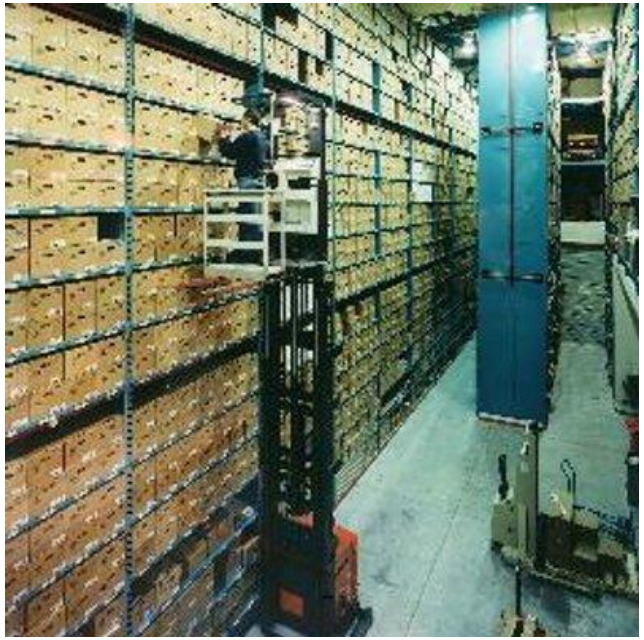
- 2025 Lord Cultural Resources
  - Guided by Streamlining Working Group (SWG)
    - no heritage expertise or 'voice'
  - Consultations
  - Consultant's draft options did not recommend dismantling HHS
  - SWG preferred dismantling HHS
    - Dismantling option never discussed with heritage stakeholders
  - No mention of Halton Regional government archival responsibilities

Opportunity - seize the turning point

- Dismantling HHS is an irreversible, intergenerational decision!
- Establish a meaningful stakeholder collaboration process
  - Include heritage subject matter experts
- Consider ALL heritage models
  - What is the vision for heritage preservation & services?
  - What can be done better?
  - Innovate to serve diverse stakeholders!
  - Create heritage plan and determine budget to deliver Heritage Vision

Integrated Archives & Museum Model

- Improve information management & governance
- Improve collections management
- MFIPPA compliance
- Potential economies of scale
  - facility, building systems, conservation, resourcing, etc.
- Similar environmental requirements
- Integrated programming opportunities



Lord report options & SWG

Mar 13, 2025
Options Appraisal Workshop
(Lord & staff only)

Feb. 28 2025 Draft Report

Option 1: Revamped Halton Heritage Services

Option 2: Contract Model

Option 3: Region-Wide Museum Network

Option 4: Diminished Halton Heritage Services Scenario

Apr. 10 2025 Final Report

Option 1: Revamped Halton Heritage Services

Option 2: Contract Model

Option 3: Region-Wide Museum Network

Option 4: Diminished Halton Heritage Services Scenario

Option 5: Dissolved Halton Heritage Services Scenario

"[T]here is no doubt the services provided by the municipality via Halton Heritage Services are valued, and most of the community museum and heritage organizations interviewed have said that they are actually needed as well."

Why Heritage Stewardship?

- Humans are a meaning seeking species
- Intergenerational heritage provides context and meaning
  - Collectively & individually
  - Both negative and positive
  - Constantly evolving
- Regional differences exist, and objects produced within a region contribute to our national identity.

Thank you.